

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 August 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
7 AUGUST 1967

1. South Vietnam

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2. Arab States

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The Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Khartoum wound up about as expected--an exercise in Semitic semantics with little solid accomplishment because of the sharp cleavage between the radicals and the moderates.

The ministers, in fact, were not even able to come up with an agenda for the Arab summit tentatively set for 29 August. Just before the summit, they are to meet again on an agenda. Another decision deferred was what to do about economic sanctions against the West. A session of oil and finance ministers will be held in Baghdad to consider this subject beginning on 15 August.

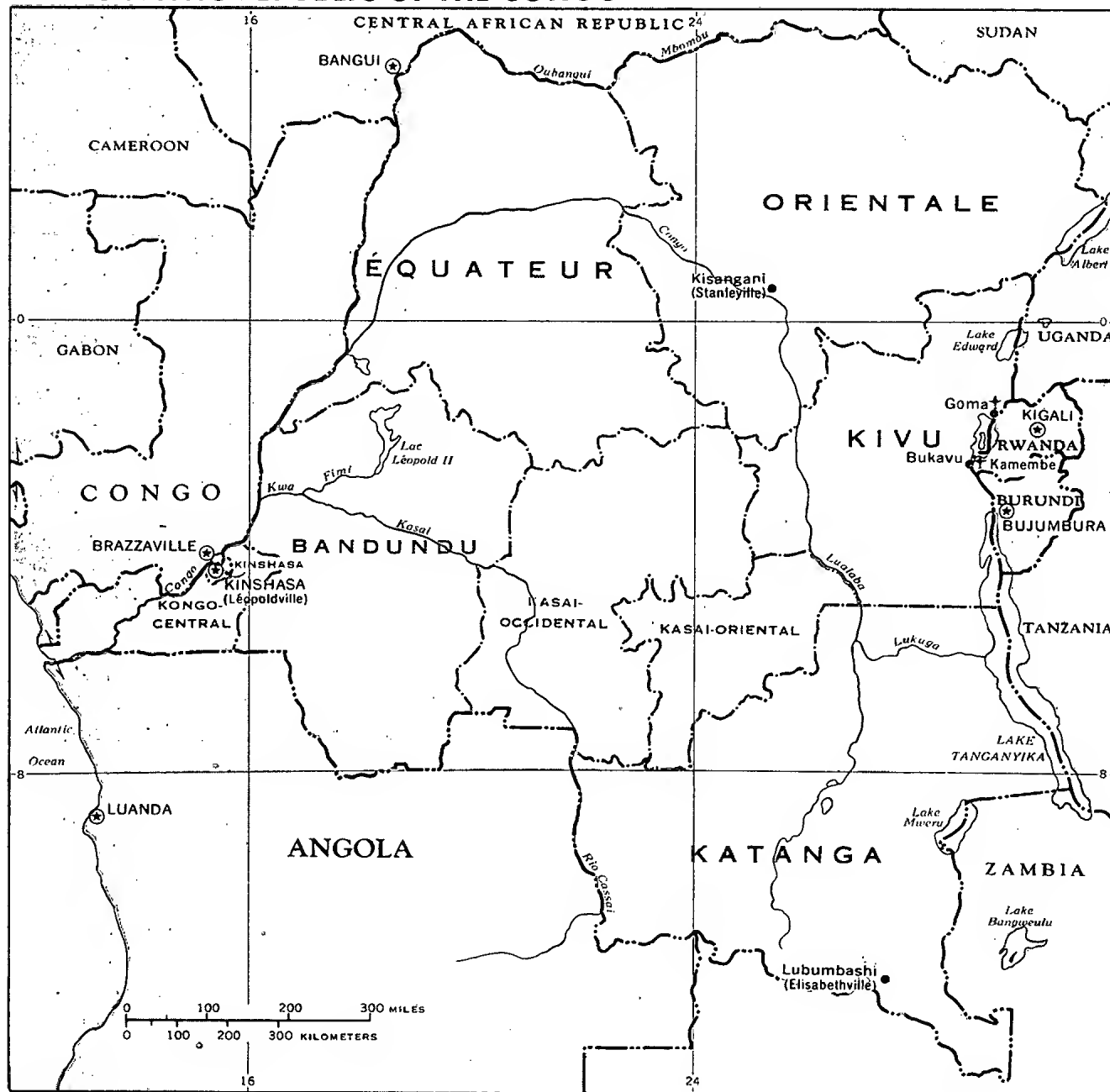
3. Indonesia

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[REDACTED] An order was issued Thursday barring Sukarno from leaving Bogor Palace or receiving guests without the express permission of the local military commander.

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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4. Cyprus

The Greeks are showing a strong inclination to get moving on a solution to the perennial Cyprus headache.

[redacted] recently that the cabinet has been discussing the subject and the military junta wants to get talks started with the Turks as soon as possible. Constantine said the Greeks are willing to make concessions if the Turks do not ask for too much. 50X1-HUM

Constantine, incidentally, appears reconciled to the military regime. He was quite complimentary of Colonel Papadopoulos who led the coup, and, for all practical purposes, runs the government. The King implied it would be much wiser for him to work with Papadopoulos rather than against him.

5. Congo

Mobutu, completely frustrated in his efforts to do something about the mercenaries, is showing signs of irrationality.

Yesterday the General subjected US Ambassador McBride and his Belgian colleague to a long, ranting diatribe about the evils of the Belgians. The fact that a Belgian leads the mercenaries served as the peg point for this performance.

Mobutu warned he would use news media to take the "truth to the Congolese people." Ambassador McBride is concerned that all foreigners, including Americans, may get tarred with the same brush.

The security situation around Bukavu remains murky. The mercenaries are a few miles to the north, but they are probably more interested in getting out of the Congo than they are in sacking another town.

6. Morocco

The Moroccans claim they are about to turn to the Soviet Union for arms.

The King told Ambassador Tasca last Thursday that this step would be taken most reluctantly, but that he did not feel he could afford to wait any longer in view of Algeria's growing military strength and political radicalism.

Kosygin has offered weapons on a gift basis, the King said. Kosygin, who made his proposition to one of the King's representatives recently, urged the Moroccans to move quickly in presenting their shopping list because Morocco now comes under a blanket policy of Soviet aid to the Arabs.

The King said some military purchases had already been made in Czechoslovakia and four transport aircraft bought from the Soviets.

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